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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Mechanized Division Potsdam 25X1

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EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 14 September 1954 25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  25X1

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

1. On several days between 1 and 21 August 1954, 800 to 900 KVPs stationed in the former Oranienburg concentration camp were seen at the obstacle course and also seen as they engaged in basic training and ordnance drill on 20 to 30 light AA guns and AA machine guns and 4 or 5 tanks. Others conducted combat practice with armored personnel carriers, tanks and infantry weapons in the Schmachtenhagen-Friedrichsthal-Borgsdorf-Wensickendorf training area east of Oranienburg. About 40 to 80 KVPs daily went to the target ranges near the Klinkerwerke to throw hand grenades. 25X1

2. Three to five hundred soldiers of the unit were allegedly employed in clearing flood damages in Karl-Marxstadt (Chemnitz) during the second half of July; the same number of soldiers were said to have been detached for harvesting of crops since early August. 25X1

3. The low wooden buildings in the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp were to be replaced by permanent buildings. Numerous wooden buildings and buildings alleged to be tank garages were being reconditioned. 25X1

4. On 5 August, the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp including the former tank school was occupied by not more than 1,000 soldiers. On the preceding days, it appeared that major elements of the unit were absent from the post for exercises.<sup>1</sup> On 27 August, the installation was occupied by an estimated 200 to 250 soldiers. There was little training activity.

5. At 2200 on 19 August, about 12 T-34/85 tanks, about 5 armored personnel carriers, 2 armored scout cars, 2 tank trucks with trailers, not less than 2 field kitchens, 1 ambulance, about 4 sidecar motorcycles, about 30 trucks and about 300 KVPs coming from the former concentration camp were dispatched at the Oranienburg railroad station for an unknown destination.<sup>2</sup>

6. In the evening on 19 August, KVP tanks, armored scout cars, trucks and guns were loaded at the Oranienburg freight station.<sup>2</sup>

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7. A tent camp of Division Potsdam was said to be located near Luette.
8. In the evening on 8 August, 15 BA-64 armored scout cars, 7 SU-85 or SU-100 guns and 12 trucks carrying a total of about 200 soldiers left the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam. On 9 August, only a guard detail and the QNA (Quartiernutzungsabteilung) (a supply group) were left in the installation. Construction work was still done at the former riding course.<sup>3</sup>
9. In the evening on 8 August, 12 SU-85 or SU-100 guns, 3 T-34 tanks, 20 BA-64 armored scout cars, 9 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and 25 trucks carrying about 400 soldiers with blue and crimson service color, 6 jeeps carrying cable reels and 8 trucks carrying a total of 120 to 130 soldiers with yellow-bordered black epaulets left the General Wever Kaserne in Potsdam and proceeded toward Golm. In mid-August, the installation appeared to be less occupied than before. Probably only a guard detail was left there. The firing ranges on Marquardter Chaussee were quiet.<sup>3</sup>
10. On 5 August, it was learned that the KVP units in the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam would be transferred to a tent camp near Kliest from 9 to 30 August.<sup>3</sup>
11. In the afternoon on 10 August one KVP troop train coming from Schoenhauzen on the Elbe River was unloaded at the Altstadt railroad station northwest of Brandenburg. Another KVP troop train from the same place arrived shortly after midnight on 11 August. The first train carried 6 medium AT guns, 4 light AT guns, 12 trucks, 5 field kitchens and 150 to 180 soldiers; the second train carried 10 SP guns, 6 light AT guns, 10 trucks, 1 sedan and 200 to 250 soldiers.<sup>4</sup>
12. On 15 August, the 15 (?) barracks buildings of the KVP installation in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken appeared to be heavily occupied. All KVPs wore blue service color. <sup>4 and 5</sup>
13. During the nights between 10 and 13 August, most of the KVP units which had been at the troop training grounds left for Altengrabow, allegedly by road.<sup>5</sup>
14. Prior to 12 August, combat and firing practices were conducted at the training grounds east of Kliest. 76.2-mm guns and 120-mm mortars were identified. In the evening on 12 August, about 50 trucks with 120-mm mortars moved northward via Schollene. The licence plates of the motor vehicle were covered.<sup>6</sup>
15. After 13 August, a hutment north of the Schoenhauzer Damm airfield was occupied by KVP.
1. Comment. Between late June and late July, major elements of Mechanized Division Potsdam in Oranienburg were at the troop training grounds east of Kliest.
2. Comment. Elements of the medium tank regiment and elements of the 1st Mecz Regt of Mechanized Division Potsdam were loaded for an unknown destination.

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3. Comment. It appears that the bulk of the 2d Mecz Regt in the Ruinenberg Kaserne and the motorcycle battalion and signal battalion of Mechanized Division Potsdam in the General Wever Kaserne transferred to the troop training grounds east of Kliestz. 25X1
4. Comment. Elements of the 3d Mecz Regt of Mechanized Division Potsdam returned to Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken from the troop training grounds east of Kliestz. 25X1
5. Comment. The bulk of the 3d Mecz Div seems to have returned to its post. 25X1
6. Comment. It is possible that both the 3d Mecz Regt and the mortar regiment of Mechanized Division Potsdam used the troop training grounds east of Kliestz at the same time. 25X1

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